

HONORING THE MURCHISON AND
LAPOYNER INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN HENDER-
SON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Murchison and LaPoyner Independent School Districts in Henderson County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Murchison and LaPoyner school districts were able to increase their rating to "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents Scott Beene and Eugene Buford.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative for Henderson County, I would like to commend the Murchison and LaPoyner Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

INTRODUCTION OF THE METH-
AMPHETAMINE BEST PRACTICES
ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the terrible and destructive drug called Methamphetamine, or meth as it is more commonly known. Meth is destroying our kids, families and communities all over the country. The meth scourge is particularly devastating in my district, the 2nd district of New Mexico.

Over the past year and a half, I have conducted over 50 town hall, school, church and community meth awareness visits. We all have a responsibility to educate our communities, parents, teachers and families about the dangers of this drug. Prevention, education and support of our law enforcement personnel are fundamental to fighting meth. However, the fight cannot stop there. We must provide those individuals who are addicted to meth the best available treatment. We must do everything we can to ensure that treatment centers and programs that are equipped with the best practices and methods to ensure long-term success for people fighting to be free of this terrible addictive drug.

Unfortunately, very little is understood in the treatment community about the Best Practices for treating this addiction. I have spent the past few months talking to the treatment professionals throughout my district. Repeatedly I heard that no one knows what the best practices are or what tools are needed for treating meth addiction. While there are successful programs, there is no uniform understanding

of the best methods to ensure long term success. Research on treating this addiction must be undertaken in order to provide our treatment professionals, doctors and recovering addicts with the best possible chance for success.

To achieve that goal and give our treatment professionals the tools they need I am introducing the "Methamphetamine Best Practices Act of 2007" to direct the National Institute of Health to conduct a survey of research available to find the best practices for treating a methamphetamine addiction. In addition, I am asking NIH to report to Congress this information and tell us what other research may be necessary. It is imperative that we equip our treatment centers and communities with the necessary information to be successful in combating methamphetamines.

Madam Speaker, we cannot stop meth use here in Congress. We can, however, give our communities the tools to win this fight. This legislation today will give our treatment professionals another weapon in their arsenal to fight meth in our communities. I want to thank my colleagues Representatives LEONARD BOSWELL, ZACH WAMP, DARLENE HOOLEY, and MICHAEL MICHAUD for joining me as original co-sponsors of this effort. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

POETIC JUSTICE FOR RAMOS AND
COMPEAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, when I was elected to Congress, I had an idea of how things worked in Washington. But after just a short while, I realized commonsense thinking wasn't exactly the "norm." In fact, it was going to take some creative thinking to get things done. For over a year now, I have been one of the ones leading the charge to free Border Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean. I think our Government prosecuted them for doing their job and gave a drug smuggler a free pass. After trying things the old way—I decided it was time for some Poetic Justice, time to turn the tables and put a new twist on an old idea.

Last week, I, along with TOM TANCREDO and DUNCAN HUNTER, sponsored an amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill to withhold funding from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to incarcerate Ramos and Compean. This effort to free these American heroes was supported across party lines and passed overwhelmingly by a voice vote.

Since repeated efforts to have them pardoned or their sentences commuted have gone unrecognized, I set out to find other ways for justice to prevail. By withholding funding to the Prison System specifically for the incarceration of Ramos and Compean, we have "tied the hands that fund them." This does not change the outcome of their sentence, but it will allow them to remain free while their case makes its way through the appeals process.

As anyone knows that has followed this case, the administration has been less than supportive of the idea of a pardon or commutation. The idea of attaching this onto an

appropriations bill is that the President isn't likely to veto the entire spending bill funding Federal law enforcement agencies because of this one amendment. Sometimes a little creative thinking allows you to beat them at their own game and save taxpayer money in the process.

As a former judge, I believe that it is important to uphold the law and I rarely argue with a jury's decision. However, the jury in this case wasn't privy to all of the facts and these two men were found guilty based on a partial presentation of the whole truth. You see, the prosecution's star witness was an illegal drug dealer who was fleeing Ramos and Compean after he brought in a million dollars worth of dope. The jury knew that, but what they didn't know was that he was given full immunity for that crime and an unlimited-use visa to come and go across the border unchecked anytime he pleased. And most important, another fact the U.S. attorney's office fought to keep the jury from hearing, was that during the trial he used that "get-out-of-jail-free-card" to bring in another load of dope. This is all information that the jury needed to know to judge the credibility of the witness.

This was the first time in history that Congress has intervened in such a way in a criminal case and it was not something that any Member of Congress took lightly. The precedent we are setting in Congress is that we stand for justice and I don't believe that this is something that we are likely to see happen again. Both Houses of Congress have investigated every aspect of this case and leaders from both parties have appealed to the President to take action—that alone is a unique occurrence.

If the President can spare Scooter Libby from prison, I think it is only appropriate to extend the same consideration to our lawmen fighting to secure our borders. Until then, we in Congress will continue to do our part to see that we right this wrong any way we can. After all, justice is the one thing we should always find.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TREFETHEN FAMILY
VINEYARDS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trefethen Family Vineyards for the award they have received from Decanter Magazine honoring Trefethen's 2002 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon as the best North American Red Bordeaux Varietal. This is a remarkable and worthy achievement reflecting Trefethen Family Vineyards' rich history of superb winemaking in the Napa Valley.

Trefethen Family Vineyards was established in 1968 when Gene and Katie Trefethen purchased the historic Eshcol Winery and surrounding vineyards in the Oak Knoll district to create a new estate. The family restored the original winery building, which was constructed in 1886 and is the only remaining example of a three-floor, gravity flow winery in the Napa Valley. In 1988, the old winery building was listed on the National Register of Historic places.

In 1973, John and Janet Trefethen opened a modern winery on the property and began producing small batches of premium wines with the help of vineyard manager Tony Baldini. Trefethen Family Vineyards 1976 Chardonnay was recognized as "Best in the World" at the 1979 Wine Olympics in Paris. Since then, Trefethen Family Vineyards has continued to produce wines of the highest quality, as reflected in this latest, international award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Trefethen Family Vineyards and the Trefethen family for the award they have received. This award is fitting testimony to the family's commitment to excellence and their dedication to helping build on the Napa Valley's reputation as the world's premier wine region.

**HONORING THE RICHARDSON AND
SUNNYVALE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DALLAS
COUNTY, TEXAS**

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts in Dallas County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that Richardson Independent School District was able to maintain its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating—and the Sunnyvale Independent School District was able to increase its rating to "exemplary"—which is the highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents David Simmons and Doug Williams.

Madam Speaker, as a representative for Dallas County, I would like to commend the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

**HONORING BARREN COUNTY,
KENTUCKY**

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barren County, Kentucky, recently designated as the "Best Place to Live in Rural America" by The Progressive Farmer magazine.

Each year, The Progressive Farmer ranks ten top counties in rural America according to several quality-of-life indicators and statistics. Barren County won top honors for 2007, citing its strong and growing economy, great edu-

cation, superior access to health care, and low crime rate.

Settled by Scottish immigrants in the late 1700's, nearly 40,000 residents now call Barren County home. Rolling farmland and a strong agriculture heritage continue to influence local attitudes, consistently ranking Barren County as a top producer of Kentucky agriculture.

Located along Interstate 65 midway between Louisville and Nashville, TN, Barren County is ideally situated as a place to live and work. Local officials and business leaders continue to attract new industries to the region, establishing four industrial parks throughout the county to accommodate future economic growth.

Barren County schools maintain some of the highest achievement scores in the State. The county also ranks high in health-care services, attracting new doctors through a local residency program.

It is my great privilege to congratulate the citizens of Barren County, Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their example of prosperity and growth in rural America.

**TRIBUTE TO OFFICER GREGG
PASSAMA**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STARK, Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gregg Passama on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving 20 years as a member of the Newark Police Department and over 33 commendable years in the field of law enforcement.

Officer Passama began his law enforcement career in January 1974 as a police officer for the Southern Pacific Railroad located in San Francisco, California. During this time, he was elected Union President to represent all Southern Pacific Railroad police officers. Mr. Passama also found time to attend the prestigious George Meany School of Labor Studies.

On June 1, 1987, he began his career with the Newark Police Department as a police officer. He also served as a field training officer and a member of both the Criminal Evidence Response and Trauma Support Teams during his career.

Officer Passama received Newark's Police Officer of the Year award in 2000 after being nominated by his peers for his compassion for others and his tireless efforts as a Newark Police Association board member, vice president, and president for two terms.

He has also previously held the positions of secretary, treasurer, and director of the California Organization of Police and Sheriffs (COPS), an organization dedicated to serving peace officers. He is currently the president of COPS, a position he has held since 2004.

Officer Passama transferred to the Training Department of the Newark Police in January 2001, where he will finish out his career as the training officer.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Officer Passama for his dedicated service to law enforcement and commitment to the community.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. This bill provides funding to support our farmers, protect the environment, ensure a safe and stable food supply, and care for the most vulnerable members of our society. H.R. 3161 also fulfills the reforms included in the recently passed Farm Bill, by increasing funding for nutrition, conservation and energy programs.

I am pleased to support funding increases for important conservation programs for my home state of Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. This legislation also restores funding for many programs that the Bush Administration's budget would have cut or eliminated, including Resource Conservation and Development and watershed programs. H.R. 3161 also encourages the expansion of renewable energy research and production by nearly doubling funding for renewable energy loans to businesses, resources for research, and grants to farmers and ranchers.

After recent food scares, Americans have become more concerned about where their food is produced. After six years of delays, I am pleased that H.R. 3161 includes a time line for implementation of country of origin labeling for our meat. This legislation fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture in order to fill vacancies and invest in research, and will also fund a transformation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety regulations. This measure also prevents cuts to FDA field operations and provides additional funding for processing generic drug applications and drug safety reviews.

H.R. 3161 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This includes the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, as well as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to non-profit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools. H.R. 3161 also includes funding to help improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children. It also expands the Simplified Summer Food